



CSN08x14

Scripting for Cybersecurity and Networks

Lecture 7:

Regular Expressions in Python; reading Web pages



Today's topics

- String/Text manipulation
- Regular Expressions
- External Data – Fetching Data from the Web
- Lab overview

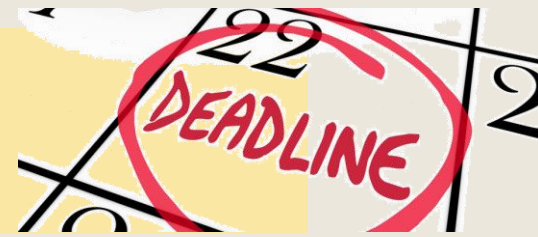
Go to www.menti.com

Code xxx





Looking Ahead



- Class test: in your labs **6/8/9 November** (next week)
 - *50% of module*
 - *Mostly Short answer questions (a few multiple choice)*
 - *Open book*
 - *1.5 hours*
- Final Coursework: **Submit Fri 7 December; demos week beginning Monday 10 December**
 - *50% of module*
 - *Spec now published*
 - *Re-use code / modules from several lab exercises.*
 - *Sign up for demo slot in moodle (released nearer the time)*



String Handling



String Escape Characters

- Escapes represent special characters - to allow characters which are not easily typed on keyboard, or can't normally be embedded in strings
- Escape Char format – backslash `\` followed by char you want to add to string, or char representing formatting

```
>>> print ('\\')    # ?
```

- When printed, interpreted as quote, tab, newline etc

```
>>> print ('Python is\t \'fun\'\\n')
```



String Escape Characters: Examples

`\\` *backslash*

`\"` *double quote*

`\n` *newline*

`\t` *tab*

`\'` *single quote*

`\b` *backspace*

`\r` *carriage return*

`\x00` *char hex value*

```
>>> '\x50'
```

```
'P'
```

```
>>> '\x50' == 'P'
```

```
True
```

```
>>> print ('\x50ython')
```

```
Python
```



Raw Strings

- *Suppress Escape Characters* – sometimes don't want to use `\` to escape characters – e.g. in file/dir paths

■ Raw String path:

`len('\n')` vs `len(r'\n')`

r specifies raw string – no escaping done (ignores escape sequences)

- *File path:*

`filepath = 'c:\temp\dir\file.txt'`

Q. Why won't this work as a file Path?

- *Escaped file path:*

`filepath = 'c:\\temp\\dir\\file.txt'`

■ Raw String path:

`filepath = r'c:\temp\dir\file.txt'`

r specifies raw string – no escaping done

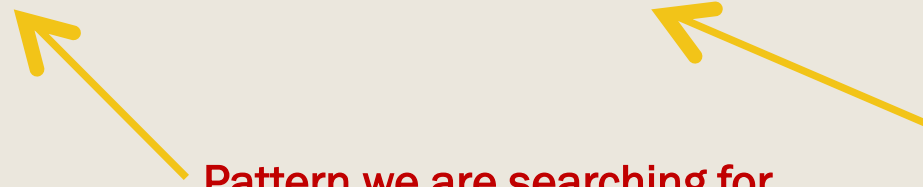


Searching for patterns in text strings: in

in operator:

```
>>> 'pattern' in 'string with pattern'
```

```
True
```



Pattern we are searching for



String we are searching through



Hex String Handling

We could create our own `is_hex()` function

```
def is_hex(hex_str):  
    '''is_hex(str) --> bool  
    returns True if the string contains only 0-9 and a-f'''  
    ishex = True  
    for char in hex_str:  
        if not char.lower() in '0123456789abcdef':  
            ishex = False  
    return ishex
```



```
>>> is_hex('34vgaq7891')  
False  
>>> is_hex('dddab267af')  
True
```



Intro to RegEx (Regular expressions)

Note: If you have never used regex before, this will be hard.

Consider working through e.g. <https://regexone.com/>



Regular Expressions

- Regular Expressions allow searching for/matching patterns in text

`[Rr]ich` pattern matches `Rich` or `rich`

`Rich|rich` pattern matches `Rich` or `rich`

- 'Regex' is the pattern to be matched against
- Language used is powerful for matching text patterns
- 'Regex' patterns can be complex due to syntax:

`[A-Z0-9._%+-]+\@[A-Z0-9.-]+\.[A-Z]{2,4}`

Q: what does this regex search for?



Regular expressions

- Used (almost) everywhere in computing to search for patterns in text
 - *Programming languages*
 - *Linux grep command*
 - *Windows findstr command*
- Very versatile - can define very complex patterns
 - *Search for Email addresses? IPv4 addresses? UK postcodes?*
 - *Each application may use a slightly different "dialect"*



Some uses of Regular Expressions

- Security and networking:
 - *log file analysis – grep to SIEM systems, IDPS signatures, AV signatures*
- Forensics investigations / Incident Response
 - *searching media images for patterns such as text/emails/dates/URLs/IP data/honey tokens*



Regular Expressions in security and networking

log file analysis – grep to SIEM systems,
IDPS signatures – intrusion/attack variations,
AV signatures

MasterCard

PCRE `5\d{3}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}`

Snort Rule `alert tcp any any <> any any (pcre:"/5\d{3}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}/"; \n\n msg:"MasterCard number detected in clear text";content:"mastercard";nocase;sid:9000001;rev:1;)`

Discover Card

PCRE `6011(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}`

Snort Rule `alert tcp any any <> any any (pcre:"/6011(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}/"; \n\n msg:"Discover card number detected in clear text";content:"discover";nocase;sid:9000002;rev:1;)`

American Express Card

PCRE `3\d{3}(\s|-)?\d{6}(\s|-)?\d{5}`

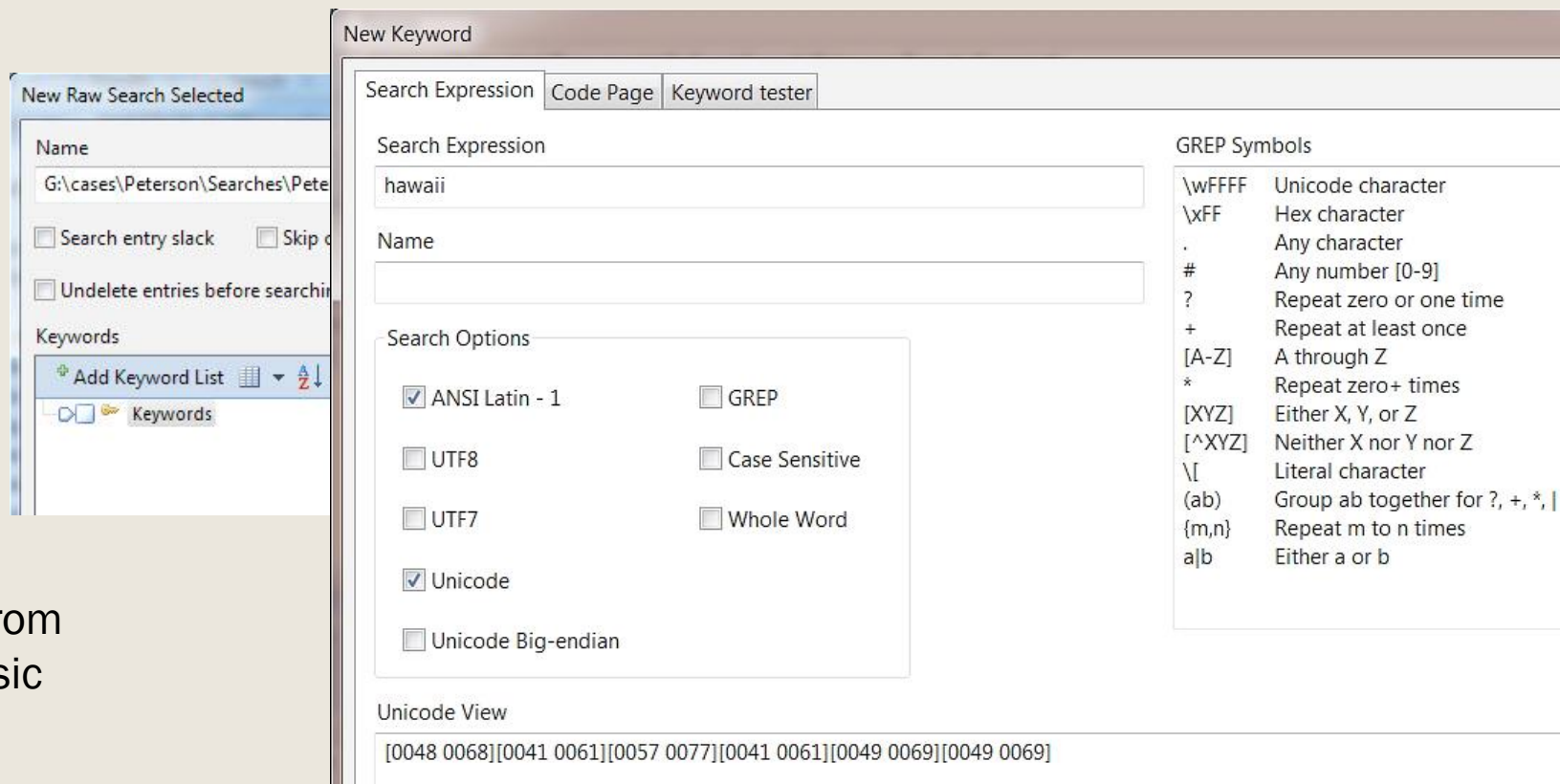
Snort Rule `alert tcp any any <> any any (pcre:"/3\d{3}(\s|-)?\d{6}(\s|-)?\d{5}/"; \n\n msg:"American Express card number detected in clear text";content:"amex";nocase;sid:9000003;rev:1;)`

See e.g. http://asecuritysite.com/forensics/snort?fname=email_cc2.pcap&rulesname=rulescc.rules



Regular Expressions in forensic investigations

Use to search media images for patterns such as investigation specific text/emails/dates/web hyperlinks – Net and Media



Screenshots from
EnCase Forensic
software



findstr – using regex on Win cmd Line

C:\Program Files\Python36 > findstr "is.hex" *

Pattern we are searching for
(uses regular expressions)

Where we are
searching
(uses filename
wildcard
expansions)

```
C:\Program Files\Python36>findstr "is.hex" *
is_hex.py:# is_hex
is_hex.py:def is_hex(hex_str):
is_hex.py:    '''is_hex(str) --> bool
is_hex.py:#print(f'Could {a} be hex? {is_hex(a)}')
is_hex.py:#print(f'Could {b} be hex? {is_hex(b)}')
```

Q: Why does is.hex
find underscores?



Using regex in Python



Python Regex

Python supports Regular Expressions using the **re** module (**re.search**), and **match** object

```
import re
```

```
match = re.search('pattern', 'string with pattern in')
```

```
match.group()
```

'pattern'

Regex Pattern we
are searching for

String we are searching
for the pattern

- Searches left to right
- Match object returned if pattern found
- Match object contains matching text
- `group()` method returns the string which matched against the pattern



Regular expressions in Python

- **search()** is part of the **re** module in the standard library
- Takes a pattern, a string and optionally flag(s)
 - Typical flag is **re.I** (*ignorecase*)
- Returns None or a SRE_Match object
 - Use **.group()** method to print contents or convert to string

```
>>> match = re.search(  
(pattern, string, flags=0)  
Scan through string looking for a match to the pattern, returning  
a match object, or None if no match was found.
```

- The **regex** third-party module is similar but offers better Unicode support and more functionality
- See <https://docs.python.org/3.6/library/re.html>



re.search() example

```
>>> import re
>>> str1 = 'string to be searched for word parrot'
>>> str2 = 'is this @an.email.address?'
>>> match = re.search('Parrot', str1)
>>> print(match)
None
>>> match = re.search('Parrot', str1, re.I)
>>> print(match)
<_sre.SRE_Match object; span=(31, 37), match='parrot'>
>>> match.group()
'parrot'
>>> match2 = re.search('Parrot', str2, re.I)
>>> match2.group()
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#14>", line 1, in <module>
    match2.group()
AttributeError: 'NoneType' object has no attribute 'group'
```

None returned if no match found.
Why does this not find anything?

re.I makes search case insensitive

Now we get a result

Use .group() to display found string

group() raises exception if nothing found

Q: how can we deal with this
likely Exception?



Writing regex

- expressing patterns





Building Regex patterns

■ Matching literal characters

- *ASCII characters match themselves*
- *'P' in the regex pattern matches a 'P' in the string being searched*
- *Special characters which do not match themselves: . \ * + ? ^ \$ { } [] | ()*

■ Special Pattern Characters:

- *'.' Dot matches any character*
- *\w matches any word character– same as [a-zA-Z0-9_]*
- *\d matches numeric digits – same as [0-9]*
- *\t, \n tab, newline*
- *\s whitespace - same as [\t\n\r\f\v]*

■ Matching Special Characters:

- *\. Matches '.'*
- *\\ Matches '\'*
- *Known as an Escape Sequence - \ used to escape special character*



Examples 1

'.' matches any single character

```
match = re.search('pat...n', 'string with pattern in')
# check if pattern found
if match:
    print (match.group())

'pattern'
```

- Raw strings typically used for regex pattern as no escaping performed

Q. Will this match 'string with patt@rn in' ?



Examples 2

more specific than '.':

- `\w` matches any single word character (letters, digits, underscore)
 - *Same as* `[a-zA-Z0-9_]`

```
match = re.search('pat\w\w\w\w', 'string with pattern in')  
  
if match: print (match.group())  
  
'pattern'
```

Q. Will this regex match 'string with patt@rn in' ?



Examples 3

- `\d` matches any digit numeric character [0-9]
- `\s` matches any whitespace character (Space,Tab,Newline)

```
match = re.search('pin:\s\d\d\d', 'pin: 1223 pattern')
if match: print (match.group())
           'pin: 1223'
```

Q. Will regex pattern match 'stuff pin:\t6666 stuff' ?
Q. Will regex pattern match r'stuff pin:\t6666 stuff' ?



Be careful with case!

- Patterns themselves are case sensitive,
- Upper case versions of character specs make search Negative!:

`\d` matches any digit numeric character [0-9]

`\D` matches anything **except** digit numeric character [0-9]

`\w` matches any single word character [a-zA-Z0-9_]

`\W` matches anything **except** single word character [a-zA-Z0-9_]

`\s` matches any whitespace character (Space,Tab,Newline)

`\S` matches anything **except** a whitespace character



Escape Sequences

- `\` escapes the character after - removing the specialness!
- Special Characters: `. \ * + ? ^ $ { } [] | ()`

- `\.` matches a single dot `'.'` char

```
match = re.search('192\.168\.\d\.\d', 'private ip 192.168.5.3')  
if match: print (match.group())
```

'192.168.5.3'

- If not sure, you can escape any character (e.g. if you're not sure about `@` use `\@` instead)



Repeating Pattern Characters (quantifiers)

- Special characters to specify (quantify) how many chars of a type to match

+ *One or more of the specified characters*

* *Zero or more of the specified characters*

? *Zero or one of the preceding character or group*

{*n*} *exactly n of the specified chars/patterns*

{*n,m*} *between n and m of the specified chars/patterns*

Example

- `s+` matches one or more literal 's' characters

```
match = re.search('s+', 'python talk: ssssssssssss ssssss')
```

```
if match: print (match.group())
```

```
ssssssssssss
```

Q. Will regex pattern `r's{5}` ' match anything? What?



Quantifiers examples

- `\d+` matches one or more digit characters [0-9]

```
match = re.search('\d+\.\d+\.\d+\.\d+', 'stuff 146.176.10.2 stuff')
```

```
if match: print (match.group())  
146.176.10.2
```

```
match = re.search('\d+\.\d+\.\d+\.\d+', 'stuff 1468.176.10.2 stuff')
```

```
if match: print (match.group())  
1468.176.10.2
```

Q. Did you expect this?
How could we prevent it?

- *** and + will match as far as possible** – known as greedy operators

Q. What will
regex pattern
's.*' match?



Quantifiers examples ctd

- `\d{1,3}` matches between 1 and 3 digit characters [0-9]

```
>>> match4 = re.search('\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}', 'stuff 1468.176.10.2 stuff')
>>> match4
<_sre.SRE_Match object; span=(7, 19), match='468.176.10.2'>
>>> match5 = re.search('\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}\.\d{1,3}', 'stuff 146.176.1560.2 stuff')
>>> match5
>>> type(match5)
<class 'NoneType'>
```

So this works better, but

- How can we ensure the first part is also only 3 digits? → anchors, or match whitespace too
- Valid IP addresses can only be up to 255 in each part - how could we search for that?
→ complex regex, or parse results and reject if any one of the parts is not valid



[] : Match a single char from a set

Square Brackets []

*[abc] set of characters - match ANY SINGLE character in the set
- equivalent to [a OR b OR c]*

```
match = re.search('\d+[- ]\d+ \d+', '0131 334 7777')
if match: print (match.group())
0131 334 7777
```

← [] contains set of chars

```
match = re.search('\d+[- ]\d+', '0131-334 7777')
if match: print (match.group())
0131-334
```

Matches on
[- or SPACE]
between digits



Repetition with Sets

- *Sets of characters to match on using []*
 - Repeat any char in set with * or + , make optional with ?
 - + *One or more of the specified characters*
 - * *Zero or more of the specified characters*
 - ? *Zero or one of the specified chars*

```
match = re.search('[\d.]+', 'stuff stuff 146.176.165.12 stuff')
```

```
if match: print (match.group())  
146.176.165.12
```

```
match = re.search('[\w.-]+@[ \w.-]+', 'stuff r.macf@napier.ac.uk stuff')
```

```
if match: print (match.group())  
r.macf@napier.ac.uk
```

Note that these regex aren't fantastically specific – e.g. the first will also match 4 consecutive dots!

Also note inside a square bracket we don't need to escape the dot



Repetition with Sets

- *Sets of characters to match on using []*
 - Repeat any char in set with * or +
 - + *One or more of the specified characters*
 - * *Zero or more of the specified characters*

```
>>> a = 'stufff 222222222'
>>> b = 'stuffff 0131 - 222890018'
>>> c = 'tel: 0131 22289962'
```

Q. Which of the regex below will correctly find the entire phone numbers in all 3 test strings?

```
>>> reg1 = '\d+[ -]+\d+'
>>> reg2 = '\d*[ -]?\d+'
>>> reg3 = '\d*[ -]*\d+'
>>> reg4 = '\d+[ -]*\d+'
```



(): Regex Groups

1. Use round brackets to create a group
2. Groups can be used to scope other operators (creates a sub-pattern within the brackets)
3. Groups can be used to extract sub-patterns
4. Advanced: Use to match on same group later in main pattern!

```
match = re.search('(\w+)@(\w+.com)', 'e: jc@montypython.com stuff')
```

```
print (match.group())  
jc@montypython.com  
print (match.group(1))  
jc  
print (match.group(2))  
montypython.com
```

```
print (match.groups())  
('jc', 'montypython.com')
```

Round brackets are used to define groups

Group method takes optional argument to select which group to return
Good way to find a pattern and extract a sub-pattern
() or (0) matches everything

Groups method returns a tuple with all the sub groups as elements



Regex Groups: demo

- Extract area code and phone number as separate sub-patterns

```
>>> import re
>>> m=re.search('(\d+)[- ]*(\d+)', 'stufff 0131-22222222')
>>> m.group()
'0131-22222222'
>>> m.groups()
('0131', '22222222')
>>> m.group(1)
'0131'
>>> m.group(2)
'22222222'
>>> if m: print (m.groups())
('0131', '22222222')
>>> m2=re.search('(0131|0141)[- ]*(\d+)', 'stufff 0131-22222222')
```

| can be used for OR



Find all matches: re.findall()

- re.search() only finds/returns first match
- **re.findall()** method finds all matches of a pattern, and returns the matches as a list

```
s1 = 'stuff stuff 146.176.122.12 stuff 146.176.123.88 stuff stuff'
```

```
matches = re.findall('\d+.\d+.\d+.\d+', s1)
```

```
print (matches)
```

```
['146.176.122.12', '146.176.123.88']
```



re.findall() method to search through files

```
f = open(filename, 'r')
match_list = re.findall('[\d+.]', f.read())

print (match_list)
['146.176.165.12', '146.176.165.23', '146.176.165.1', '146.176.165.7']
```

```
f2 = re.findall('def\s\w+', open(r'dict_crack_with_args.py').read())

print (f2)
['def dict_attack', 'def is_hex', 'def main']
```



Could open and read file within the findall() – but harder to understand and troubleshoot



re.findall() method with Groups

```
S2 = 'stuff jc@montypython.com stuff stuff rich@gmail.com'  
matches = re.findall('(\w+)@(\w+.com)', s2)
```

```
print (matches)  
[('jc', 'montypython.com'), ('rich', 'gmail.com')]  
print (matches[0])  
('jc', 'montypython.com')
```

Returns a list of tuples

```
for match in matches:  
    user, domain = match  
    print (user, '-', domain)
```

Unpack each tuple in list
into individual variables

```
jc - montypython.com  
rich - gmail.com
```



greedy and minimal matching

- Greedy matching means that the RegEx will match "as much as possible"
- Add ? after the qualifier to make the search non-greedy or minimal, i.e. match as little as possible

```
>>> html1 = '<head>Title</head><body>text</body>'
>>> re.findall('<.+>', html1)
['<head>Title</head><body>text</body>']
>>> re.findall('<.+?>', html1)
['<head>', '</head>', '<body>', '</body>']
```




Regex Patterns: Anchoring

- **Anchors** - match positions in search string – not any char

^ start of string

\$ end of string

```
str = 'Rich is not rich'
```

```
matches = re.findall('^[Rr]ich', str)
print (matches)
['Rich']
```

- Only matches on first 'Rich' not second, due to the ^
- Useful if position of a search pattern is at beginning of a line

```
matches = re.findall('[Rr]ich$', str)
print (matches)
['rich']
```



Regex Patterns: Anchoring

Use both ^ and \$ to match entire string

```
>>> str = 'Rich'
>>> match = re.search('^[Rr]ich$', str)
>>> if match: print (match.group())
Rich
```

```
>>> str = '@Rich'
>>> match = re.search('^[Rr]ich$', str)
>>> if match: print (match.group())
... else: print ('Not Found')
Not Found
```

Only matches pattern if
entire string matches exactly

- Can be used for pattern-based argument validation
- Parsing text – one token/word at a time



Regex Anchors example

```
rule = """permitt tcp 192.168.10.0 0.0.0.255  
host 192.168.20.5 eq www"""
```

firewall rule we want to
Parse and validate
'permitt' is invalid
command

```
tokens = rule.split()
```

Splits rule string
into parts
(on spaces)

```
if not re.search('^ (permit|deny)$', tokens[0]):  
    print ('Invalid syntax: ' + tokens[0])  
Invalid syntax: permitt
```

Checks whether action is permit or deny
with nothing before or after



Matching hex in text

- `\x90+` matches one or more hex 90 characters

```
match = re.search('\x90+', 'string with nop slide \x90\x90\x90\x90 in')
```

- But this isn't as easy to manage as a "proper" string being returned:

```
>>> match3 = re.search('\x90+', 'string with nop slide \x90\x90\x90\x90 in')
>>> match3
<_sre.SRE_Match object; span=(22, 26), match='\x90\x90\x90\x90'>
>>> print(match3.group())
```

Clearly returns the match as expected

But the print statement returns a blank line

- Use `re.findall` instead, works better here

```
>>> match3b = re.findall('\x90+', 'string with nop slide \x90\x90\x90\x90 in')
>>> match3b
['\x90\x90\x90\x90']
>>> print(match3b)
['\x90\x90\x90\x90']
```



Developing RegEx

Regular Expression Patterns can become very complex and code is dense

```
\b[A-Z0-9._%+-]+@[A-Z0-9.-]+\.[A-Z]{2,4}\b
```

Time consuming to create and debug

- Experiment in the Interpreter
- Use an online tester e.g. <https://pythex.org/>
- Set up a test string and print out what pattern matches, using a small test search string
- Create patterns in small sections, make pattern match something, then expand pattern.

```
>>> str = 'stuff stuff 146.176.165.12 stuff'
>>> print (re.findall('[\d+.]', str))
['146.176.165.12']
```

- When you think you have the right regex test things it shouldn't match!



Example: Snort rule

■ Snort Rules for clear text Credit Card Detection

Credit Card Requirement	PCRE Expression	Results
Start with a "4"	4	We have our starting digit.
Then any 3 digits	\d{3}	We finish our first four digit sequence.
Then a space, dash or nothing	(\s -)?	We account for a divider character, or not.
Then any 4 digits	\d{4}	We add our second set of four digits.
Then a space, dash or nothing	(\s -)?	Another divider?
Then any 4 digits	\d{4}	A third sequence of four digits.
Then a space, dash or nothing	(\s -)?	Our last divider?
Then any 4 digits	\d{4}	The last four digit sequence.

Regex for Visa Credit Card

"Quite a simple example"

```
alert tcp any any <=> any any (pcre:"/4\d{3}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}(\s|-)?\d{4}/"; \n\nmsg:"VISA card number detected in clear text";content:"visa";nocase;sid:9000000;rev:1;)
```



Help & testing

- For an interactive regex tutorial, that starts right at the beginning, go to <https://regexone.com/>.
- Interactive tester for Python RegEx: <http://pythex.org/>
- Interactive tester with a Python flavour that also explains each regex element <http://regex101.com>.
- <https://www.regular-expressions.info/tutorial.html>
- Python docs: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/re.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zN8rwVXwRUE> (Python Regular Expressions Tutorial (45 mins))
- If you google for regex, make sure you fully understand and test any solutions you find, and of course acknowledge the source in your code!



http://regex101.com

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SAVE & SHARE

save regex ctrl+s

FLAVOR

</> pcre (php)

</> javascript

</> **python** ✓

</> golang

TOOLS

code generator

REGULAR EXPRESSION

3 matches, 25 steps (~0ms)

```
^r" \+? [\d\s-]{6,}
```

TEST STRING

SWITCH TO UNIT TESTS ▶

```
0131 854 345 456
+44 131 2345432
+44 (0)131 2348787
```

EXPLANATION

- ▼ `" \+? [\d\s-]{6,} "` g
 - ▼ `\+?` matches the character `+` literally (case sensitive)
? Quantifier — Matches between **zero** and **one** times, as many times as possible, giving back as needed (*greedy*)
 - ▼ Match a single character present in the list below
`[\d\s-]{6,}`
{6,} Quantifier — Matches between **6** and **unlimited** times, as many times as possible, giving back as needed (*greedy*)

MATCH INFORMATION

Match 1

Full match 0-17 ``0131 854 345 456``

Match 2

Full match 17-33 ``+44 131 2345432``

Match 3

Full match 40-51 ``131 2348787``

Make sure you use the Python setting!



Getting information from web pages

Using the urllib library



Python Data from Web: urllib

- Urllib.request library – Get data from the Web
- Use `urllib.request.urlopen()` to return a web page object from a URL (similar to a local file object)

```
import urllib.request
url = "http://www.python.org"
webpage = urllib.request.urlopen(url)
```

- Read text from web page object as normal
- ```
content = webpage.read()
```

```
>>> content
b'<html>\n<head>\n<title>Trustwave Web Filter</title>\n<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" cont
ent="text/html; charset=UTF-8">\n<style type="text/css">\n.blockcopy { font-family: Arial,
Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 13px; font-style: normal; font-weight: bold}\n.content {
font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 11px; font-style: normal}\n.heading {
font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-size: 14px; font-style: normal; font-weigh
t: bold; color: #FFFFFF}\n.contentbold { font-family: Arial, Helvetica, sans-serif; font-si
ze: 11px; font-style: normal ; font-weight: bold}\n</style>\n<SCRIPT type="text/javascript"
>\nvar reauth_window;\nfunction close_reauth_window()\n{\n if (reauth_window && !reauth_w
indow.closed)\n reauth_window.close();\n}\nfunction isemptystring(source)\n{\n var c
ount = 0;\n for (var i = 0; i < source.length; i++)\n {\n if (source.substring(i,
i+1) == " ")\n count = count + 1;\n }\n if (count == source.length)\n retu
rn true;\n else\n return false;\n}\nfunction do_options1()\n{\n document.block.STE
P.value = "STEP2";\n document.block.action="block.cgi";\n document.block.submit();\n}\n
function do_options2()\n{\n document.block.STEP.value = "STEP2";\n document.block.actio
n="http://" + document.block.AUTHIP.value + ":81/cgi/block.cgi";\n document.block.submit();\n
}\nfunction do_webauth()\n{\n window.location.replace("https://:8081/AuthenticationServer
/AuthenticationForm.jsp?URL=http://www.python.com/&IP=146.176.164.159");\n}\nfunction do_ov
erride()\n{\n if (isemptystring(document.block.NAME.value))\n {\n alert("Please en
```



# Python Data from Web: exception handling

## ■ Exception Handling if urlopen fails

```
try:
 url = 'http://www.nonexistentpage.com'
 webpage = urllib.request.urlopen(url)
except:
 print ('error loading web page:', url)
```

## ■ Check HTTP Status Code (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_HTTP\\_status\\_codes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_HTTP_status_codes))

```
url = 'http://www.python.com'
webpage = urllib.request.urlopen(url)
webpage.getcode()
200
```



# Practical Lab 07

- RegEx
- Reading web pages (webpage\_get.py)
- email\_analysis.py



## Script to get Webpage Contents from a URL

webpage\_get.py

Q. What do we  
need to add to  
the wget()  
code?

```
Script: webpage_get.py
Desc: Fetches data from a webpage.
Author: PL & RM
Modified: Oct 2017
#
import sys, urllib.request

def wget(url):
 ''' Retrieve a webpage via its url, and return its contents'''
 print ('[*] wget()')
 # open url like a file, based on url instead of filename
 webpage = None # ADD YOUR CODE TO OPEN URL HERE
 # get webpage contents
 page_contents = None # ADD YOUR CODE HERE
 return page_contents

def main():
 # set test url argument
 sys.argv.append('http://www.napier.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx')

 # Check args
 if len(sys.argv) != 2:
 print ('[-] Usage: webpage_get URL')
 return

 # Get web page
 print (wget(sys.argv[1]))

if __name__ == '__main__':
 main()
```

Open and read the  
webpage contents,  
then return

Test URL  
argument

Get webpage  
content and print



# Trying to open a webpage...our wget() function

- Python now by default checks for a valid ssl certificate of a webpage before opening it (to prevent e.g. man-in-the-middle attacks)
- This may result in the error:  
`urllib.error.URLError: <urlopen error [SSL: CERTIFICATE_VERIFY_FAILED] certificate verify failed (_ssl.c:748)>`

You should only do this  
if you trust the website

- To fix the error:
  1. **`import ssl`**
  2. *in `wget()`, add the following line at the top:*  
**`context = ssl._create_unverified_context()`**
  3. *Change the `urlopen` call from* `webpage = urllib.request.urlopen(url)`  
*to*  
**`webpage = urllib.request.urlopen(url, context=context)`**



# Putting it together: email header analysis

- Email headers contain information about the route the email has taken from sender to recipient
- Valuable for identifying malicious emails
- E.g. <http://asecuritysite.com/email02.txt>
- Look at e.g. IP addresses and email addresses



# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses part 1

```
Script: email_analysis.py
Desc: extracts email addresses and IP numbers from a text file
or web page; for example, from a saved email header
Author: Petra Leimich Oct 2017
#
IMPORTANT: wget may fetch a byte object, but regex only works with strings
import sys, urllib, re

def wget(url): # could import webpage_get and use wget() from there instead
 '''Suitable function doc string here'''
 # open url like a file, using url instead of filename
 # then get webpage contents and close
 # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 return page_contents

def txtget(filename):
 '''Suitable function doc string here'''
 # open file read-only, get file contents and close
 # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 return file_contents
```

What do we  
need to  
add?





# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses part 2

```
def findIPv4(text):
 '''Suitable function doc string here'''
 ips = [] # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 return ips

def findemail(text):
 '''Suitable function doc string here'''
 emails = [] # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 return emails
```

What do we need to add?  
Use re.search() or re.findall()?



# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses

## part 3

```
def main():
 # temp testing url argument
 # un-comment one of the following 4 tests at a time
 #sys.argv.append('http://www.napier.ac.uk/Pages/home.aspx')
 sys.argv.append('http://asecuritysite.com/email01.txt')
 #sys.argv.append('http://asecuritysite.com/email02.txt')
 #sys.argv.append('email_sample.txt')
 # Check args
 if len(sys.argv) != 2:
 print (['[-] Usage: email_analyse.py url'])
 return

 # Get and analyse web page
 try:
 # call wget() or txtget() as appropriate
 # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 print (['[+] Analysing %s' % sys.argv[1]])
 print (['[+] IP addresses found:'])
 # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 print (['[+] email addresses found:'])
 # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...
 except:
 # error trapping goes here
 pass # ... ADD YOUR CODE HERE ...

if __name__ == '__main__':
 main()
```

What do we need to

Important:

If txtget and wget return bytes  
(binary object)

Then findIPv4 and findemail will  
not be able to find anything

Need to decode at some point.

Where is best?

Exception handling?



# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses

## Enhancements part 1

- Although opening and reading a local file or a web page is quite similar, we need to apply the appropriate method!!
- Could do this manually via `main()`

Better:

- Auto-detect whether the argument is a URL or local file, and automatically call the appropriate function to open and read the object
- How?



# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses

## Enhancements part 2

- IP addresses must have a number between 0-255 in each quartet (0.0.0.0-255.255.255.255)
- Our regex might also find e.g. 999.6.123.12
- How to filter out?



# Script for extracting emails and IP addresses

## Enhancements part 3

- Email headers typically contain multiple occurrences of email addresses. Ideally, your script should count the number of occurrences and print each email address only once with its count, instead of repeating email addresses found more than once.
- How?